

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4 and 11-15 are pending in the subject application. Claim 15 is currently amended. Claims 1 and 15 are independent.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed December 14, 2004.

Claims 1-4 and 11-15 are presented to the Examiner for further prosecution on the merits.

A. Asserted Anticipation Rejection of Claim 15

In the outstanding Office action, the Examiner rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,561,625 to Maeng et al. ("the Maeng et al. reference"). Applicants respectfully submit that the Maeng et al. reference fails to anticipate claim 15, as currently amended.

Claim 15 currently recites that the ink passage communicates with the ink chamber at one of the two ends and the nozzle is formed proximate to the opposite end, such that the nozzle is not centered along the length. Such a configuration is shown, for example, in FIGS. 5-7 of the original specification.

In contrast, the Maeng et al. reference discloses a nozzle 222 formed over the center of ink chamber 214. *See the Maeng et al. reference at, e.g., FIG. 8D.* Further, the nozzle 222 is not opposite the ink channel 216, which extends to the side of the ink chamber 214, as clearly seen in FIGS. 8A and 8D.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the Maeng et al. reference fails to disclose or suggest the present invention as recited in claim 15. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

B. Allowed Claims

The indication that claims 1-4 and 11-14 are allowed is gratefully acknowledged. It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are in condition for allowance.

C. Conclusion

Since the cited prior art reference neither anticipates nor renders obvious the subject invention as presently claimed, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4 and 11-15 are now in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to expedite resolution of any outstanding issues.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of this application is earnestly solicited, and an early and favorable further action upon all the claims is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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PETITION and
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT CHARGE AUTHORIZATION

This document and any concurrently filed papers are believed to be timely. Should any extension of the term be required, applicant hereby petitions the Director for such extension and requests that any applicable petition fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

If fee payment is enclosed, this amount is believed to be correct. However, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

Any additional fee(s) necessary to effect the proper and timely filing of the accompanying-papers may also be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.